

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-20 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 CU-04

DPW-01 /169 W

----- 096988

R 101150Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5640

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL DANANG

CINCPAC

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7640

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PINS, VS

SUBJECT: COMMENT ON THIEU JUNE 6 SPEECH

REFS: A) SAIGON 7608; B) SAIGON 7609

1. AS REF A POINTS OUT PRESS TREATMENT OF PRESIDENT THIEU'S JUNE
6 ADDRESS TO A TEACHERS' GATHERING NEAR SAIGON HAS BEEN INACCURATELY
REPORTED. REF A PROVIDES EXCERPTS MORE OR LESS IN THE ORDER THEY

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APPEARED IN THE SPEECH BUT IN SOME CASES GROUPED ACCORDING TO

SUBJECT. REF B CARRIES FULL TEXT.

2. PRESIDENT THIEU WAS TRYING TO PROVIDE SOME ASSISTANCE TO THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY KISSINGER DURING THE CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION. HE WAS ALSO QUITE CONSCIOUS THAT HE WAS SPEAKING TO A DOMESTIC AUDIENCE. IN PARA 18, FOR EXAMPLE, HE GIVES A CLEAR NOTICE THAT THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE EXPECT TO DEFEND THEIR OWN FREEDOM FROM NOW ON BY THEMSELVES, THAT THEY ONLY ASK FOR SUFFICIENT AID "WITH WHICH TO STRENGTHEN OUR ARMED FORCES, DEVELOP OUR ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND DEFEND OURSELVES. OUR ARMED FORCES DO NOT LACK MEN, WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION. WE ONLY ASK THAT OUR ALLY GIVE US SUFFICIENT AID. THERE IS NO NEED TO SEND U.S. TROOPS TO THIS COUNTRY.". AGAIN AT THE END OF PARA 21, HE SAYS "FOR THIS REASON I NOW TELL THE UNITED STATES AGAIN THAT AID IS THE ONLY WEAPON WE ARE AWAITING FROM IT."

3. ALSO IN THIS CATEGORY ARE THE LAST THREE SENTENCES OF PARA 16: "WE CHALLENGE THE COMMUNISTS TO AN ELECTION AND WE ARE READY TO ACCEPT ITS CONSEQUENCES, AND THE COMMUNISTS MUST BE READY FOR THAT TOO. THESE ARE 'RULES OF THE GAME'; BUT THE PLAYERS MUST PLAY FAIR. PEACEFUL MEANS WILL BE USED IN THIS CHALLENGE - THAT IS AN ELECTION IS TO BE ORGANIZED AND CONDUCTED HONESTLY UNDER INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION."

4. IN THE LATTER CATEGORY WOULD COME THE REVIEW OF THE INCREASING NORTH VIETNAMESE USE OF MILITARY FORCE SINCE THE CEASE-FIRE, THE EXTENT OF WHICH THIEU HAS FELT IS BEING OBSCURED BY WESTERN REPORTING TENDING TO TERM SOUTH VIETNAMESE REPORTS OF THE EXTENT OF THE ENGAGEMENTS AS EXAGGERATED SO AS TO INFLUENCE THE AID PROCESS.

5. THE PRESIDENT ALSO RESPONDED TO AN INTERNAL IMPERATIVE TO COUNTER THE IMPRESSION LEFT BY THE TAD SZULC ARTICLE IN FOREIGN POLICY THAT HE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET-NAM WERE PLAYED FOR PATSIES DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO THE JANUARY 1973 AGREEMENTS. THEREFORE, HE STRESSES THE CHANGES IN THE OCTOBER DRAFT WHICH HE HAD DEEMED IMPERATIVE FOR SOUTH VIETNAMESE SURVIVAL AND EXPLAINS THEM IN TERMS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN LAOS WHERE A COALITION GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN FORMED WITH THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES EXCEPT, OF COURSE, THOSE OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. WHILE STATING

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THAT HE CANNOT "INTERFERE" IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF LAOS HE NEVERTHELESS ARTICULATES COMMONLY HELD VIETNAMESE PERCEPTIONS THAT THIS IS AN UNLIKELY FORMULA FOR A CONTINUING VIABLE AND STABLE GOVERNMENT.

6. ALSO IN THE LATTER CATEGORY THE PRESIDENT WAS ADDRESSING WIDELY HELD FEARS AMONG THE VIETNAMESE THAT IT IS NOW THE INTENTION OF NORTH VIET-NAM TO PRESS FOR A RENEWAL OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE AMERICANS WHICH WILL RESULT IN THE IMPOSITION OF A LAOS-TYPE

COALITION AND THAT THE INTENSITY OF THE CURRENT MILITARY ACTIVITIES ARE DESIGNED TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS NORTH VIETNAMESE OBJECTIVE. HE IS, THEREFORE, GIVING ASSURANCE TO THOSE WHO HAVE ARTICULATED THESE FEARS THAT THEY ARE GROUNDLESS AND THAT SUCH AN EVENTUALITY WILL NOT OCCUR AS LONG AS HE REMAINS THE LEADER OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE.
MARTIN

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